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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ACCRA 001509

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [GH](#) [ECOWAS](#)

SUBJECT: GENERAL CHARLES WALD CALLS ON PRESIDENT KUFUOR

Classified By: Polchief Richard Kaminski, reason 1.5 (B/D).

11. (SBU) Summary. General Charles Wald, Deputy EUCOM Commander, accompanied by Ambassador Yates and the Wald delegation, called on President Kufuor July 16. Wald offered congratulations on Ghana's MCA selection, offered to assist with GAF mobility problems, praised Ghana's ECOWAS leadership, and noted the USG's strong interest in seeing Africa equipped to respond to security challenges "at its own time and choosing." He also announced Ghana's selection for the State Partnership Program. Kufuor spoke warmly of his reception at the G-8 Sea Island meeting, thanked the USG its continuing security assistance, requested C-130 aircraft for Ghana's air force, and agreed that a strengthened African security structure was in "everyone's interest." Kufuor also professed optimism regarding the upcoming Accra III talks on Cote d'Ivoire. End summary.

12. (C) General Charles Wald, accompanied by Ambassador Yates, Polad Snell, Brigadier General Zahner, and other members of the embassy and delegation staff, called on President Kufuor July 16. Defense Minister Kwame Addo-Kufuor and Chief of Defense Staff Seth Obeng also attended on the Ghanaian side. Wald began by congratulating Kufuor on Ghana's selection for MCA. He also praised the strength of USG-Ghana military cooperation, welcomed the African Union announcement of 5 regional standby forces, commended Ghana's ECOWAS leadership, extolled General Obeng's military planning prowess, and endorsed the concept of an African Union security system that is equipped to "respond at its own option" to continental crises. Wald said that, for a start, the USG would "help with mobility" for the Ghana Armed Forces. He also announced Ghana's selection for the State Partnership Program, with Ghana to benefit from North Dakota's reserve units.

13. (C) Wald suggested that ECOWAS was "the model for Africa" in its handling of politico-military challenges, and the USG would help Africa replicate that model elsewhere. Wald also said he had been favorably impressed with the increasing technical competence of the ECOWAS military staff, with new officers from ECOWAS countries coming on board. The USG, said Wald, had been making major efforts to establish effective bulwarks against terrorism in North Africa, and he hoped to see the same sort of cooperation with ECOWAS, with its strengthened planning capability. The newly announced Global Peace Keeping Initiative would be one vehicle for such assistance, he suggested.

14. (C) President Kufuor thanked Wald for his remarks on Ghana's contributions to regional security. He noted his pleasure at attending the G-8 Sea Island meetings with other African heads of state, saying that "we wish to provide for ourselves," but "we must be realists," and keep close relations with donor governments. An effective African security system required help from friendly governments, he said. Kufuor thanked the USG for Ghana's MCA selection, and praised the embassy's support and involvement in the process. Kufuor praised USG bi-lateral military aid programs, and several times asked for provision of C-130 aircraft. At one point, Kufuor called departing TV cameramen back into his office, and had them tape his request to Wald for the C-130s. Wald responded by once again offering help with "mobility" and by saying that the USG would "look at" provision of C-130s scheduled to be taken out of service. (Note: Press articles the following day took their cue from the President's approach as they headlined, "Ghana to Receive US Transport Planes." Expectations may be difficult to fulfill with the President's prestige on the line. End note).

15. (SBU) General Wald announced and detailed Ghana's selection for the State Partnership Program, which had been formally designated that day as a Ghana/North Dakota partnership. Wald's home state, said Wald, offered outstanding air and engineering reserve units who would work with the Ghanaian armed forces to increase their effectiveness and expertise. Kufuor was pleased with the news on the SPP and the fact that Ghana was only the third country in Africa to qualify.

16. (SBU) Prompted by a question by Ambassador Yates, Kufuor expressed guarded optimism on the Accra III peace talks scheduled for July 29 and 30. He expected Presidents Obasanjo, Bongo, Kerekou, Toure, Compaore, and possible Mbeki, among others, to attend, as well as UNSG Kofi Annan,

and all the various players in the Ivorien crisis, including President Gbagbo. Although all the various factions would be expected to compromise, Gbagbo would be particularly looked to for helpful concessions, he said.

17. (C) Comment. General Wald's praise for Ghana's military fell on very receptive ears, civilian and uniformed alike. USG interest in an effective African security system dovetails with Ghana's wish for enhanced military professionalism and regional reach. The Ghanaian government press corps, unskilled (or uninterested) in the subtleties of donor/recipient conversation, promptly reported that Wald had promised C-130s to Ghana, something we may have to walk back in future press remarks. However, the level of cooperation between our two militaries has never been higher, and seems poised for further progress. End Comment.

YATES